

ROCK TRAILS



Newsletter of the StateLine Gem and Mineral Society

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2016 Officers and Directors

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Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
at 201 W. Main St., Morenci, MI 49256



Secretary's Scoop

October 6, 2016

President Sherm Kardatzki called the meeting to order, with Richard B. giving the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed, as well as introductions to two new members, Lisa and her son Ryan.

Doris made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as it was printed in the newsletter. It was seconded by Richard B. and it passed with all in favor.

Doris gave the Treasurer's Report including expenses for Mexican geodes, Consumer's, and our rent. She then reported the deposits she had made from Art-A-Licious, Clinton Fall Festival and some new membership dues. Doris also projected income for Appleumpkin and expenses for the rest of the year. Glenda made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Jan. It passed with all in favor.

Setup for Appleumpkin was discussed and a list of volunteers was made.

As discussed in September about gathering information about potential new locations for the clubhouse from our previous landlord, it was decided that the club isn't in a position to buy property unless it's on a rent-to-buy contract.

There was then some discussion about whether to keep the club gift shop open or to use that space for storing the geodes and the geode cracker. Doris thought that it would be good to store them there so that they would be out of the office and the meeting room, yet still be easily accessible. Judy said that members need to create more items to place for sale, even if it is for fundraisers instead of an actual gift shop.

Glenda informed the members who were present that she had a contact that she could get a new kind of geode from: ones from Madagascar, but she wanted the club's opinion. After some discussion about the characteristics of these kinds of geodes, it was felt that customers love shiny, sparkly geodes and they also love New things. Richard made a motion to buy 100 pounds of these geodes and it was seconded by Jan. It passed with all in favor.

It was also felt that it would be well received if we had signs made to help customers distinguish the different kinds of geodes apart from each other. It was also felt that this could potentially boost sales as well. I volunteered to make signs or posters for this.

Buying a tent for club fundraisers was discussed briefly, but it was decided it would be discussed further at a later meeting.

Glenda had an idea to put four stones in grab bags instead of two and Jan said that people are satisfied with the grab bags already, but she was in favor of putting three stones in. Members voted between three stones or four and it passed 10 to 8 in favor of four stones.



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I informed the club that I would be attending an open dig the last weekend in October in St. Francisville, Missouri for Keokuk geodes and that I was extending an open invitation to anyone who wanted to come.

It was brought to the club's attention that the 10 inch saw was in need of new blades and that the flat lap was in need of a new set of disks. It was decided that Sherm would research and get the best deal. Glenda made a motion to spend up to \$500 on blades and disks and it was seconded by Doris. It passed with all in favor.

Doris brought up that it is getting to be the time of year that we need to decide on a Nominating Committee for new officers as stated in the by-laws. Members felt that it wasn't needed and that if the current Officers were in agreement, that things should stay the way they were nomination-wise. Carl made a motion to accept this and was seconded by Bill Sipes. It passed with all in favor, though it was brought up that we will need a new director this year.

Mary Shultz volunteered to create a digital calendar for the club that would include different events, meetings, trips, silent auctions, banquets and potlucks.

Glenda made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Richard B. and it passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
~Heidi Storehalder~

Please add these new members to your membership list:

Larry & Alice Clark 4390 E. Mulberry Jasper, MI 49248 (517)443-5507
Moms69Chevelle@Hotmail.com

Lisa & Tom Doty 198 Breyman Highway Tipton, MI 49287 (517)902-4913
irishhillsmassage@yahoo.com

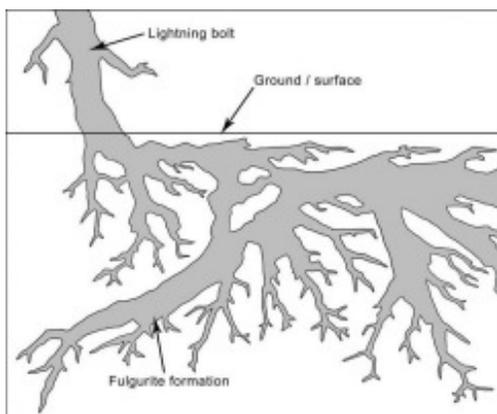


Fulgurites

When lightning strikes sand, magic is formed

All it takes is a flash. Lightning strikes the ground, creating temperatures of more than 3,000 degrees. The sand around the lightning strike fuses together, and fulgurite is formed.

What are fulgurites? The word – based on the Latin word for thunderbolt – refers to a hollow glass tube formed when lightning strikes soil, silica, sand or even rock. These amazing structures – sometimes referred to as “petrified lightning” or “lightning stones” – don’t look like the transparent glass in your windows or kitchen cabinets. Instead they are complex structures that resemble a cross between a vegetable root and some of the more crystalline minerals such as mica. They vary in shape and size – most are only a few inches long – and they tend to form around the path of the dispersing electric charge of the lightning.



According to the Utah Geological Survey, there are two types of fulgurites: those formed when lightning hits sand and those created from rock. Sand fulgurites come from beaches and deserts, have a more glass-like interior, and can be particularly fragile. Rock fulgurites, which are rarer, form as veins inside rocks and often need to be chiseled out of their surroundings.

Fulgurites have been found all over the world, although they are relatively rare. Their unusual structure, delicate nature and origin give them some value, although not in the range of precious metals. Some sites list small fulgurites for as little as \$15. The more attractive pieces or those processed into jewelry can fetch a few hundred dollars.

Although most collectors seek out fulgurite solely for its looks, some people believe the lightning stones hold magical abilities to help focus divine energy, enhance creativity, or heal various illnesses. The TV show “Supernatural” used fulgurites in a few episodes to summon gods or demons, although those uses don’t appear to be part of any traditional lore.

Perhaps not surprisingly, some people enjoy making their own fulgurites, either by sticking lightning rods in sand before thunderstorms or using a high-voltage power supply in a lab. The resulting fulgurites can be even more attractive than those created naturally, although obviously safety is paramount when engaging in these activities.

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/climate-weather/stories/fulgurites-when-lightning-strikes-sand-magic-is-formed>





Acorn Candy Cookies

Prep 15 min.

Ready In 45 min.

Recipe By:What's for dinner, mom?

"Cute little treats all on their own or a fun decoration for your cupcakes! Enjoy as is or use to decorate cupcakes. If you are good at piping try adding some colored leaves made of frosting to the top of the Nilla(R) Wafer."

Ingredients

1 tablespoon prepared chocolate frosting
24 milk chocolate candy kisses (such as Hershey's Kisses(R)), unwrapped
24 mini vanilla wafer cookies (such as Nilla(R))
24 butterscotch chips

Directions

Smear a small amount of frosting onto the flat bottom of a candy kiss. Press onto the flat bottom of the vanilla wafer. Smear a little more frosting onto the flat bottom of a butterscotch chip, and press onto the rounded top of the cookie. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Set aside to dry, about 30 minutes.

[http://allrecipes.com/recipe/216459/acorn-candy-cookies/
?internalSource=staff%20pick&referringId=17232&referringContentType=recipe%20hub&clickId=cardslot%209](http://allrecipes.com/recipe/216459/acorn-candy-cookies/?internalSource=staff%20pick&referringId=17232&referringContentType=recipe%20hub&clickId=cardslot%209)

Household Products That Can Be Used As Rock Cleaners

by Betsy Martin

Via The Franklin County Rockhounder, 5/2007; via Gem Cutters News, 4/2007;
via The Collecting Bag, 12/2006. Via
Breccia 6/2007,
via The Rockhounder 4/2015
via Rockpile 10/2016

Safety:

Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

1. Zud or Barkeeper's Friend cleansers (contains oxalic acid) - Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a tooth brush on sturdy surfaces.
2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) dissolves calcite rapidly.
*** after treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.
3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above).
4. Calgon — Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.
5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above).
6. Iron Out (iron stain and clay remover) Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.
7. Bleach – Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.
8. Hydrogen peroxide – Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.
9. Citric acid - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.
10. Windex (with ammonia) A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.
11. Distilled Water – Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings:

On moderately hard minerals — use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush.

On hard minerals – use toothbrush with pumice powder and water.

On calcite (including bruised places) - quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterward to leach any acid from cracks.

Cleaning Tools:

Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, X-ACTO® knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes.



Thanksgiving Poem

Author unknown
via Chippers' Chatter 11/2014
via Backbender's Gazette 11/2015

T'was the night of Thanksgiving,
But I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards,
I tried counting sheep.

The leftovers beckoned,
The dark meat and white.
But I fought the temptation,
With all of my might.

Tossing and turning,
with anticipation.
The thought of a snack
became infatuation.

So I raced to the kitchen,
Flung open the door,
And gazed at the fridge,
Full of goodies galore.

I gobbled up turkey,
And buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots,
Beans and tomatoes.

I felt myself swelling,
So plump and so round.
'til all of a sudden,
I rose off the ground.

I crashed through the ceiling,
Floating into the sky,
With a mouthful of pudding,
And a handful of pie.

But I managed to yell
As I soared past the trees
Happy eating to all,
Pass the cranberries, please!!

May your stuffing be tasty
May your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes and gravy
Have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize
And may your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off of your thighs!



"Guess what, I was invited
up to the house for Thanksgiving!"

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

See all Brad's jewelry books at
Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. Other sources would include cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/

For nonstandard shapes, it's easy to make your own template. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic or thin sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that let's me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that's not possible, pop them in an oven at around 250 F

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon
www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 6, 2016
State Line Gem & Mineral Society
monthly meeting & induction of officers
2:00 p.m.
201 W. Main St.
Morenci, MI 49256

Nov. 5, 2016
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary
Society auction
Democratic Club
23400 Wick Road
Taylor, MI
Sat., 6 - 10

Nov. 14, 2016
Michigan Mineralogical Society
auction
Cranbrook Institute of Science
39221 N. Woodward Ave.
Bloomfield Hills, MI
Mon., 7 p.m.





Rock Trails

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Meetings are held the
first Sunday of each month
at 2:00 PM
at 201 W. Main St.,
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